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TREASURER LAUDS NEW APPROACH TO SITING OF STATE OFFICE BUILDINGS Smart growth policies to be applied

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHILIP ANGELIDES

SACRAMENTO – California State Treasurer Philip Angelides issued the following statement on the enactment of an Executive Order issued on October 9, 2001, directing all state agencies to conform to "Smart Growth" policies with respect to the construction or leasing of State office space. Angelides was the sponsor of state legislation, AB 545 authored by Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg, that was the basis for the Executive Order.

"The State of California occupies 34 million square feet of office space at more than 2,400 locations statewide. Given the significant impact of the State's commercial real estate investment, the State of California should have policies to guide the location of both leased and newly acquired State offices. Such policies should support sound growth patterns in California cities and towns, enhance the livability of California communities, minimize costs to the State and its taxpayers, improve accessibility to State services and facilities for both customers and employees, and reduce traffic congestion.

"In that vein, I am pleased that the Executive Order requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to consider the following factors, among others, when selecting locations for State offices:

- Proximity of public transit service;
- > Availability and proximity of affordable housing;
- > Pedestrian access to retail services and opportunities for mixed use development;
- > Sites within urban core areas; and
- The need for neighborhood economic revitalization.

"The Executive Order builds on this office's continued commitment to addressing the problems of sprawl and underinvestment in our urban core. It will help ensure that state resources are invested to sustain the economic, environmental, and social strength of California over time."

"I want to commend all of the organizations that supported the enactment of this policy, including the League of California Cities, the Planning and Conservation League, the Sierra Club, the California League of Conservation Voters, the California Transit Association, the Local Government Commission, the San Diego Association of Governments, the Western Center on Law & Poverty, and the cities of Sacramento, Santa Ana, and San Jose. Their strong advocacy was key to moving this important policy forward."

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